

THE Musical Times

Proposed Pension for Dr. Fowle

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printer? I have a letter in my possession which, although not conclusive on the point, is extremely suspicious.

If this letter appears, and my former one with the paragraph from the *Sunday Times*, thus shewing that *perfect fairness* exists, I will (on receiving Mr. Stainer's full reply to my queries) pen a very full answer to his questions for the following number of your Journal. But I will be no party to any question that is discussed in an unfair and one-sided manner. You, as Editor, have already been *grossly unjust*. The flattering paragraph from the *Sunday Times* provoked jealousy, and because it was in my favour you rejected it. For the same reason, my letter assuring you that I knew not the name of the writer of the said article was refused insertion, and you write a leader to induce your readers to believe that in not giving it publicity you are playing the part of a friend! That letter has been sent by request for perusal to musicians who are evidently astonished at the want of justice evinced. Neither will you insert anything in my favour that appears from my friends; but it is to be regretted that you are so blind as not to see such injustice, and that the trumpet of Messrs. Stainer and Barnby is blown alternately *ad nauseam*, and until "the whole head is sick and the whole heart faint." I have only to add that I am profoundly indifferent whether or not you insert this letter and my former communication, because in the event of your not doing so it will be printed, together with all else on the subject, and freely circulated throughout the towns and villages of the United Kingdom.

Yours obediently,

1, Eastgate, Winchester,
March 12, 1875.

T. LLOYD FOWLE.

Dr. Fowle thinks it well to send to the Editor of the *Musical Times* the enclosed postscript to his letter posted last evening, in order that no unpleasantness or litigation may arise without due warning being given.

March 13, 1875.

P.S.—I think it well to caution you as to what you insert in your journal about my degrees, as undeniable proof can be given of their *bond fide* nature. A few years ago a contemporary only escaped an action for libel by printing an account of them *in extenso*, and I am determined if anything further is inserted that is false and libellous, I will prosecute to the utmost rigour of the law. I therefore warn you to be careful what you insert. I can say much on the subject of degrees, with which you and your readers do not appear to be familiar.

T. L. F.

[As Dr. Fowle requests, we print his letter precisely as we received it—even to the heading—together with the whole of the correspondence on the matter which has been forwarded to us. Dr. Stainer's reply to the above communication appears in our present number; and we now beg distinctly to state that, having originally broached this subject on public grounds, we shall avoid further personalities by refusing insertion to any future letter from Dr. Fowle which contains more than straightforward replies to Dr. Stainer's queries.—ED. *Musical Times*.]

PROPOSED PENSION FOR DR. FOWLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MUSICAL TIMES.

SIR,—Had you prefaced the remarks you have thought proper to make respecting myself in your February number, by inserting *verbatim*, the flattering paragraph from the *Sunday Times*, you were quite welcome to write whatever you pleased as far as I am concerned. It appears to me, however, quite superfluous to state "that the names of a few others who have done something for church music will be immediately called to mind," as such would undoubtedly be the case with all who are familiar with music and musicians. Nevertheless, *de gustibus non est disputandum*, will apply to music and composers as well as to other things; and even as regards the eminent musician who has so lately been honoured with a resting place in Westminster Abbey, the whole musical world is not of one voice respecting his merits. I have a letter written to me

by one of the most eminent composers of the day at the time when the late Cambridge professor did not make any great mark with his 1862 Exhibition Ode, and in which he says, "I know nothing good of Bennett's." Very likely he had chosen to know nothing, but that I cannot tell. Only a year ago another scientific musician stated personally to me, "I know very little of Bennett's music, and what I do know I do not like." As this is a free country, I conclude that these musicians had a right to express such opinions; and by a parity of reasoning that those 2,000 persons who state that "I have done more for church music for country choirs than any man living," have a right to think and to say so if they think proper so to do, the *dictum* of the *Musical Times* notwithstanding. I am not so conceited as to expect every person to agree with such an assertion, but as I have not "blown my own trumpet," I am not called upon to throw cold water upon warm hearts. I know too much about criticism in general, and music in particular, to follow some of my brethren in the art by attempting anything *great*, but for more than twenty years I have studied the wants and capabilities of country choirs. That my labours should have been so appreciated as to enable 2,000 persons honestly to sign a petition to the Premier for a Civil Service Pension, is a gratifying testimonial which I assure you I shall continue to regard with a serenity and satisfaction wholly beyond the power of any one in the slightest degree to disturb.

Be so good as to insert this letter in your March impression, as I am very desirous that your readers should clearly understand that I am in profound ignorance of the name of the writer who gave me such a flattering paragraph in the *Sunday Times*, a journal that is well-known to stand high as a musical and literary authority. You may, however, refuse to do me the justice to insert this letter. If I am wrong in my surmise, I beg your pardon, and

I am, yours obediently,

1, Eastgate, Winchester,
Feb. 9, 1875.

T. LLOYD FOWLE.

AN OLD SERVANT.—A petition has been presented to the Premier, signed by some 2,000 persons on behalf of Dr. Lloyd Fowle, of Eastgate, Winchester. It says, that "Your petitioners are desirous that Thomas Lloyd Fowle (styled 'The People's Musician'), Doctor of Music and Master of Arts, should be granted a pension from the Civil Service List, as a reward for the invaluable benefits he has conferred on the church by his many useful and excellent musical works, extending over a period of more than twenty years. Your petitioners are of opinion that the said T. L. Fowle has done more for church music for country choirs than any man living. The following list of works he has produced and published himself will show his untiring industry in the cause of useful music for the church and the people generally." We have not time or space to enumerate all the numerous works produced by this gentleman that have been so favourably received, but alas! with so little profit. It will be sufficient to state that many of his anthems have been approved of by many celebrities, and some have been patronised, but not so well as they have merited. The petitioners conclude their appeal by stating that "Although the works of the gentleman will for ever prove valuable and useful, Dr. Fowle has not derived the pecuniary benefit he has justly deserved, on account of the want of a sufficient capital during the many years he has laboured. He is now not in strong health, and has had a helpless wife for nearly twelve years." Dr. Fowle is an old servant of the public, and his contribution of sacred and secular music has been so large that we feel somewhat at a loss to find that more success has not attended his exertions from those whom he worked so zealously to please. It is to be hoped that the petitioners' request will not be passed unheeded.—*Sunday Times*.